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Yozakura Quartet 4

Suzuhito Yasuda

Ballantine Books

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# Yozakura Quartet

## 4

Suzuhito Yasuda

Translated by Satsuki Yamashita
Adapted by Nunzio DeFilippis and Christina Weir
Lettered by North Market Street Graphics

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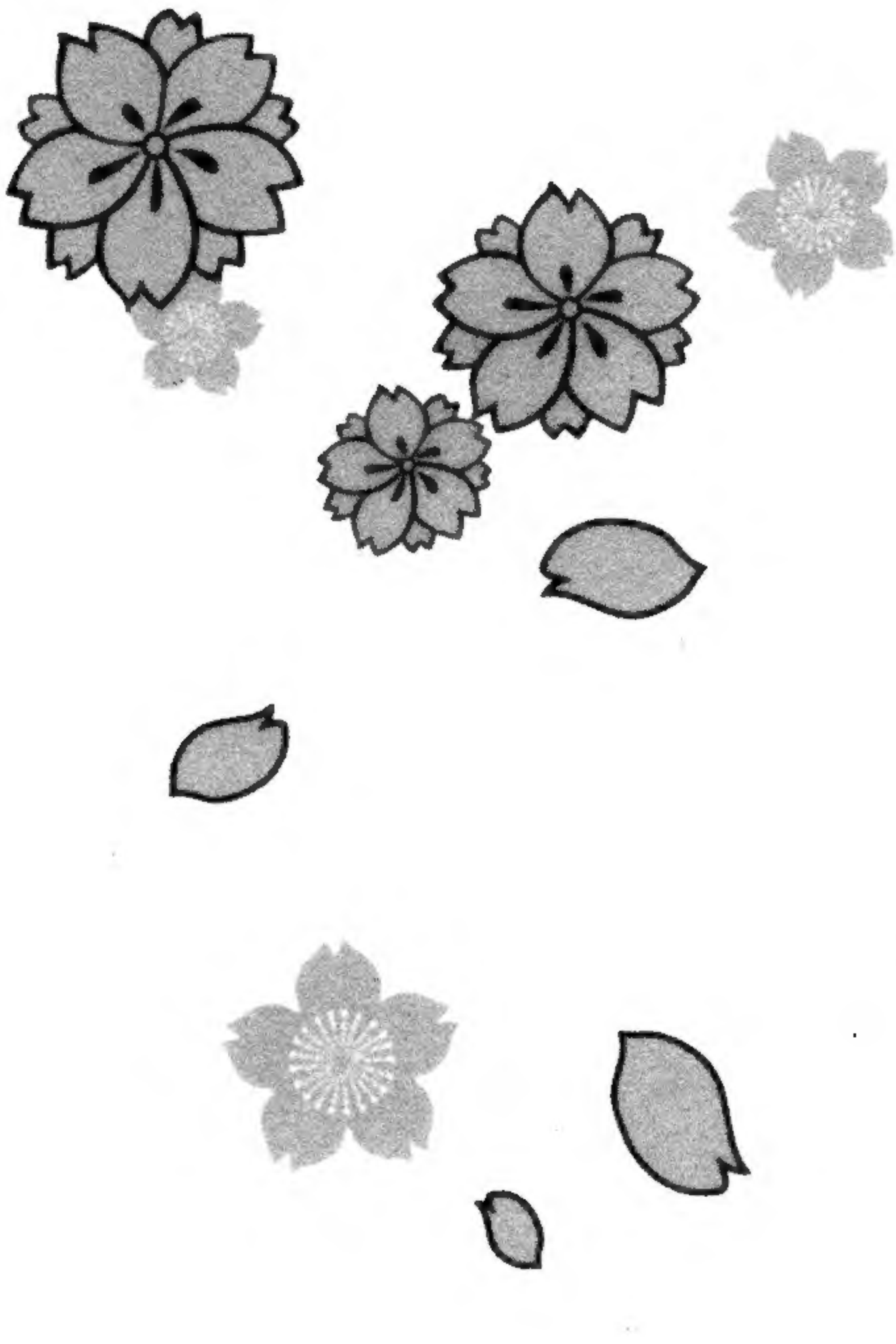
# A Note from the Author

I bought an electronic drum set so that I would get more exercise.
I play my favorite songs, even though I suck. Or I play it with video games.
It actually gives me a good workout.
Anyway, the instrument Akina is playing is called "timbales."
It sounds good and I would want one, but it would cause noise issues
with my neighbors.
I wish someone would make electronic timbales.
I know it's a niche market, but...

Suzuhito Yasuda



# Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/
Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

# Yozakura Quartet 4

Suzuhito Yasuda

Hime is the mayor of Sakurashin Town. She is in high school. She has superhuman abilities.

Hime Yarizakura

The director of the Hiizumi Life Counseling Office. He is a normal human who has to deal with all the weirdness that occurs in the town.

Akina Hiizumi

Quartet of cherry blossoms in the night

# Yozakura Quartet

CHARACTER PROFILE

Ao Nanami

An employee of the Hiizumi Life Counseling Office. She is a satori, a demon that can read minds.

Kotoha Isone

A part-time worker at the Hiizumi Life Counseling Office. She is a kotodama user, someone who can conjure up anything she speaks.

Kyosuke Kishi

Hime's assistant. He keeps his demon powers in check with shackles. He cares deeply for his younger sister, Touka, and he is constantly worried about her.

Touka Kishi

Kyosuke's younger sister. She can't control her demon powers. She is secretly in love with Akina.

The land god of Sakurashin Town. She is often seen wandering the streets.

Yae Shinatsuhiko

The district mayor who coordinates the towns. He is also a land god. Deep down, he is a perverted old man.

Yuhi Shinatsuhiko

Juri

A demon doctor and town icon. Lately, she has been abstaining from show business.

Yuhi's secretary. She is always ordered to cosplay, but she seems to enjoy it.

Mariabell

A Jiang Shi who works at a ramen restaurant. It looks like she doesn't work much, but she does.

Rin Azuma

Shidou Mizuki

He is a cop, but everyone tends to forget that fact. He is busy watching over Mina and Kana.

Twins who are mermaid-vampire hybrids. They grow when they immerse themselves in water.

Kana Tatebayashi

Mina Tatebayashi

Mysterious Old Man

A suspicious elderly gentlemen. He conspires with Morino and attacks Sakurashin Town.

Kazuyoshi Morino

The current Mayor of the neighboring town. He conspires with a Mysterious old man to kidnap Kohime.

Eiji Shinozuka

Morino's secretary. He is half-demon like Kotoha, and has superhuman physical strength.

Kohime Sakurano

Hime's cousin and a candidate for the Mayor of the neighboring town. She has been kidnapped.

Kiku Yotsuya

The old lady at the antique shop. She's been taking care of Hime and her friends ever since they were little.

Jinroku Yotsuya

The old man at the antique shop. He might be a good person at heart.

## OUTLINE

Hime and the gang were pulled into the mess surrounding the upcoming mayoral election in the neighboring town. During all of this, Hime was able to obtain the Dragon Spear, which is passed on to Sakurashin's Mayor.

# Yozakura Quartet Contents

007 ..... Thorny Road (Part 8)
045 ..... Thorny Road (Part9)
085 ..... Thorny Road (End)
123 ..... Hanamizuki (Part 1)
159 ..... Hanamizuki (Part 2)
194 ..... Extras

Bwa ha ha ha!!

Ha ha!

ZWISH "

To think there are still phenomena I don't know about!

Well, well. What an interesting town.

More fun to crush.

# 18th Night: Thorny Road (Part 8)

Phenomena you don't know about?

What do you mean? What's your connection to this town?

Heh heh.

RUMBLE

I won't go easy on you.

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

.....

Humph! Anyway, you better watch out!

Now that I have the Dragon Spear...

GRIP

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

I guess I let it slip.

Why don't we just forget about it.

?

Why won't you move?

.....

What's wrong?

I guess it's time for my back-up plan.

Hey.

.....

वे, SST

.....

CLICK

街

……?

ZWISH

Oh, right.

You only listen to the Mayor.

ZZZ

I was baby-sitting.

You should thank me.

TAP

Whoa !

!!

Kohime !!

Hey, Take!

Damn it.

I completely forgot about her!!

Hey!!

What?!

.....

What the heck?! Is this how you handle your town?!

Is this what you became the mayor for?!

.....

Jinroku-ojii-san...

Take! What are you doing?!

I can't believe you're doing this! Forgetting what your teacher taught you about how to be a mayor!

And in *this*, of all towns!!

You ungrateful fool!

Urgh...

...

Sorry, but save that for later.

It's almost daybreak.

Such a person exists?

Someone who teaches how to be a mayor?

You better watch out.

A dragon *and* a demon are angry!

CRACKLE

The situation's different now.

What are you going to do? Depending on what you decide...

You know what?

But... is it okay...

Well, excuse me.

It's too late!

That can't be helped! Hime, don't let him sway you!

Fine. From now on...

Come to think of it... Although it's too late...

Hmm

...for the mayor to resort to violence?

Actually, I have... PERFECT ATTENDANCE! NO TARDINESS!

...I will be...

...a fighting school-girl!!

Is...

...that any goodz!

PROUD FACE

Ha ha.

CRACKLE

SHINE

Then I'M here acting as your friend.

You admit you're acting!!

The Dragon Spear!!

Why is a high school girl holding such a weapon z!

This is just like a big strap, that's all.

Fine.

RRRUUUMMMBBBLLLEEEEEEE

THUD

SNAP

Then this is it.

Er!!

THUD

THUD

THUD

FLASH

Urgh!!

This is too MUCH!!

HHHH

ドン

……！

Jii-san! Don't move from that spot!

JUMP

What?! Why would I get near...

that thing?!

There's no doubt...

.....

CRASH

WOOSH

Grr!

WOOOOOSH

But this is hard!

We're able to handle it because I have the Dragon Spear.

SLICE

CRUSH

!

...hat's ...rue.

Remember that.

Our primary objective isn't to defeat it.

Hime-sama.

Humph!

Discussing strategy, huh?

CRASH

...Scattering Spiderlings!!

Eighteenth formation...

JUMP

Urgh...

WHOOOSH

Not so fast!

GRAB

FWOOSH

That's...

my line.

CRAAAAA'AAAAAAAASH

Urgh...

FOOSH

Now...

Akina !!

!

JUMP

Huh?

POOF

That was close.

Ha ha.

?!

What?

So he didn't move at high speed!

No!

If he did, my dynamic vision would be able to follow him!

He
Move
that
far
in an
instan

There's no way.

Hee hee.

I don't know. It's like frames skipping in a video.

That's not it, either.

Wha

So he warped ?

OPEN

If you're going to resist, then I have no choice.

SST

HANG

Ko...

Kohime!

Heh. She's heavy in these old arms.

I might drop her.

...!

Hey!

You...

But things are not going as planned, so...

HANG

HANG

That wasn't part of the deal! We said we wouldn't hurt the kid!

We did.

Morino!

What are you trying to do, you...!

ZWISH

Uh...

What do you want Me to do?

I can back off, but if I do, you won't win the election...

!

Because you listen to your mayor no matter what, right?

Heh heh.

You're still going to stand in the way?

You're an idiot. But I always knew that you worked hard for your town, so I didn't hate you.

But this is wrong.

.....

...Grr!

Morino!

Right now...

I hate you!!

IDIOT!

I can't believe you're using a child as a shield to protect your status!!

.....

Sorry, but...

Are you done?

Ko...

Kohime

!!

...my arm is tired.

Hold...

DASH

it!!

JUMP

CATCH

!

People learn how to protect others when they are protected themselves!

I still need to protect her!

Morino!

I don't have to be reelected Mayor! If there is someone more worthy, I'll gladly give up the position!

!

*Those are my grandmother's words...*

But she's still too young!!

CREAK

Urgh...

Shino...

HUMPH.

Then I can't help it... Eat them both.

MOMF MOMF

*Then she was his teach-er?*

Shinozu-
kaaaa!

That's
it.

That's
more...
like
my
master.

Shinozuka...

He...

Want to come to my town?

It's a good place... My town!

...doesn't want to stay in this town.

Because he fell and caused many people trouble.

Hmm?

I see. Well, he probably wants to be alone and think for a while.

Okay.

You're not mayor yet.

Soon I will be! Maybe by the next election...

FLING

Whoa!

Shinozuka...

GRIP

Shino...!

17

CHOMP

This doesn't look good.

Shinozuka! Answer Me!!

WOOSH

Whoa !

Shino... Shino-zuka !!

THUD

And he told my men not to do anything, so he could take all the blame!

I beg you!

He was the one who opposed this plan all along!

I beg you!

No problem.

But what should we do?

Got it!

I know I can't ask...

But, please, help him!

I beg you!

WHIRRRRR

Wait! She's coming soon...

But we have no other option! We have to try it...

No.

You'll hurt Shino-zuka, too!

Maybe I can rip his belly open with the Dragon Spear?!

Yeeeee...

hawww!

KICK

There she is!

Whoa.

HELLO!!

Heard the previous conversation

I'll be Fighting School Girl #2!!

You're crazy!!

Use your kotodama!

ACK!

Back!

THUD

I...

Hello?!

NOK NOK NOK

Can you hear me? If you can, answer me!

NOK NOK NOK

Hello?

I can hear you...

...won't melt that fast.

I'm creating it inside...

Are you ready, Akina? Send it quickly so it doesn't suffer!

If he can hear me, then my kotodama will reach him, too!

Shinozuka!

Good!

INHALE

?!

CRACKLE

Huge...

SWORDS

!!

THUNK

FLASH

!!

Tuning

CRACKLE

Akina

!

Got

it!!

Ready...

Akina, you okay?!

I'm fine.

HM.

That... hurt!

STING

Ow.

THUD

ZWISH

I imagine that hurt. If you use your power too much...

Huh, Mr. Akina Hiizumi?

!

...won't you be out of alignment from this dimension?

This old man... How come he knows so much?!

Listen!

PEEK

Oh yeah, I used Satellite, and I ran out of energy...

...!!

DAZED

She's awake.

WAKE UP!

Huh?

Oh, Ao-chan.

I can't read that old man's mind.

It's weird. Very weird!!

...Heh.

SWIF

I guess it's good timing.

Heh heh.

Who exactly are you?!

You hypnotized us, so we can't get out of town...

What?

I'm a little tired... of showing the illusion.

No... way!

Backstreet

Nii-
san...?

Ni...

Why
are
you...?

Gin?
Are
you
Gin?

GRIN

No
way...

It's
different...

WOBBLE
ɜ
o
...

On the inside...

he's completely different.

Who are you?

Ha ha ha.

SST

Causing demons to drop...

can only be done by a Hiizumi.

Bingo!

You've heard that name from the old tales, right?

Why don't you ask the director?

You have an idea, don't you?

Huh?

18th Night: Thorny Road (Part 8) END

# Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

Shinozuka. He hasn't changed much.

The Hiizumi who was sent to the Afterworld...

...Enyou Hiizumi...

...Met his descendant, Enjin Hiizumi!!

CRACKLE

# 19th Night: Thorny Road (Part 9)

I'M...

... not going to say I'M not scared of dying.

I think dying is a scary thing.

Because I believe that I can come back.

Then why am I going?

If there is a Hiizumi over there, he will be able to help me.

Right? They're *your* ancestors...

Akina.

.....

With their help, we should be able to stop the two dimensions from integrating.

Don't look so sad, Ao.

I'll be back soon. I promise.

SQUEEZE

.....

Of course, you have to work hard on this side, as well.

Akina.

I'll definitely be back.

But until then, please take care of my sister.

Okay?

Akina?

But...

Why?

And I heard that Gin was on a journey.

Heh.

Hey, I don't understand.

I heard about the two dimensions integrating... but the descendants of Hiizumi?!

What's going on?

...and Ao's older brother, Gin.

The integration of the dimensions started a long time ago.

We didn't finish talking earlier, Hime.

So the people who tried to stop it were me, my grandfather...

We didn't know what was causing it.

...and Gin volunteered to go to the Afterworld.

We thought we could get in touch with Enyou's descendants and work from both dimensions...

So I...

with My own hands...

...tuned Gin.

Tuning to go see Enyou's family?

I thought Enyou's family died over there!!

Because...

Ha!

Ha ha ha ha!!

?

...?

TH-THUMP

To suit our needs?

That's hilarious!!

The people from this dimension are that selfish, huh?

You guys sent him...

to the Afterworld to suit your needs...

...and you figured he was dead?

TH-THUMP

Enyou Hiizumi went there by his own choice, right?

What are you talking about?

TWITCH

...

I see!

Heh. Heh heh...

Ha ha ha ha!!

No wonder you have no idea what I'm talking about.

I see now!!

ZWISH

Fine. I'll tell you.

Are you saying...

Enyou Hiizumi...

was made into a living pillar.

He didn't want to...

but his whole family was *forced* into it.

?!

And they had the nerve to tell people that he volunteered!

We were all the same clan, but our family suffered because we were just an offshoot.

So this is the Hiizumi family legacy!! Ridiculous!

Argh!!

They are wedges Enyou sent to integrate the two dimensions.

The Seven Pillars are not landmarks for tuning.

Could it be...

That's right.

The two dimensions are integrating...

Did you notice that the dimensions get distorted...

.....

...every time you do a tuning?

.....?

They are proof of his resentment !!

And you use them as guides to tuning.

That's funny!

.....

His body?!

You're going to take over his body?!

Ha ha.

...I need your body.

Akina Hiizumi...

!

Thanks to all that, the dimension got too distorted.

But I need one more push from the main branch of the Hiizumi family.

I just need your spirit to exit first.

It's simple.

Like this.

WOBBLE

Ao!

!!

CRACKLE

Did you know?

These aren't ears, but antennae.

Ha ha!

Of course, this body will come in quite handy, too.

She can read minds by receiving thoughts.

But they can send signals, too.

...?

For example...

CRACKLE

You're quite smart.

Like showing illusions?

The opposite of reading minds... is... interfering with the mind?

...this.

YOOM

!!

The Dragon Spear ?!

Huh?!

Why are there two?!

What's this?

WOOSH

!

SWING

Whoa!

So this is his power, huh?!

What's going on?!

That was close!

Shoot!

VOOSH

89

I won't be scared of...

If it's an illusion...

CRACKLE

ずいっ ZUI

Just kidding.

FOOSH

...it!

SHNK

TURN

A fake-out...

...doesn't do you any good unless you have something real, too.

...?

Urgh!

THUD

Ow...

Whoa.

Pressure!

CRUSH

Ugh.

Damn it...

THUD

CRACKLE

CRACKLE

KICK

ZWOOSH

GRAB

GRIP

We still need to ask him things...

No, Hime-chan.

I'm going to kill him.

Move, Shidou-san.

Okay.

CLAP

It ends there, folks.

!

District Mayor!

And Mariabell.

It's a wrap.

I'm taking my morning walk.

Now that's enough.

PRESS

Why are you here?

He...

No, it's not! He killed Akina...

Heh.

GONE

Oh.

Huh?!

Huh?

What?

I guess it *is* enough.

This is how he moved so fast earlier...

I see.

An... illusion?!

Huh?

I'll...

FOOSH

...come say hi another time.

!

Wake up now.

See you, Akira Hiizumi.

.....

WAKES

!!

FLINCH

Sleeping?

Huh?

RUSTLE

...Hime memo?!

The...

あいた Ouch!

I bit my tongue~

Urgh...

I couldn't help it! I was surprised...

You're killing Me!

ボコボコ

WHACK

WHACK

If you were okay, you should've let us know! Idiot!!

ROLL

ROLL

?!

!

Urgh...

Hime...

Urggg...

URGH

SNIFF

SNIFF

...

Oh, that's right.

Sorry...

But the election caused quite a mess.

Sigh.

STRETCH

That kid can't run for Mayor.

Morino, you're the Mayor again.

What...?

Whaaaa-aaaaat?!

She can't become Mayor at nine years old.

This town is special.

Sheesh.

TAP

I'M so tired.

SLUMP

What... was all this racket for, then?

SIGH

Zzz

Zzz

Zzz

.....

SIGH

Good job,

Mayor.

COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO

SMILE

SMILE

SHINE

SHINE

It's thanks to you, Akina.

Me?

Hime is so happy today.

THUNK

THUNK

THUNK

Hey, don't add extra things!

Let's put a soba table there...

Where's Ao?

She's still sleeping.

She said she'd come out tomorrow.

I see...

HEE HEE HEE

Your scarp was fixed!

MUNCH MUNCH

?

ZWISH

Pheeeew.

It's going to take a while.

Of course they'll help!

Yeah, but we were involved, too...

Sorry for making everyone help.

ALONE

Humph! I know...

All our merchandise blew away, so we have to start from scratch.

.....

I want to become an adult soon.

おぉぉ SOB SOB ぉ... SNIFF

Sigh...I can't be a mayor for twenty more years.

Huh?

Oh, that's the thing you grabbed when we ran away.

ぱ RUSTLE さ

ぱ RUSTLE さ

トン TAP

.....

Stop crying!

Ugh...

You're going to become a mayor!

What are you making?

?

VOOM ゴゴゴゴゴゴ

VOOM ゴゴゴゴゴゴ

VOOM ゴゴゴゴゴゴ

DASH たたっ

TROT たったったっ

...she can use this to eat good food...

Until she becomes a great mayor...

Humph.

She seems okay.

That's not for sale!

Blue Clouds

Hey, there's no price on this.

Then you'll grow in no time.

Use this to eat good things!

Hey.

ZWISH

It's that beautiful bowl!!

Oh. Oooooh!

Thank you, old man!

Humph!

I'll eat a lot and grow up fast!

I'll eat everything in this!

How nice. I want one, too.

STARE

Yes!

He gave it to you?

Oh, that bowl.

Phew, that was tiring.

Humph!

You don't need that anymore. You're okay now!

?

That's not what I meant!

Then what do you mean?

I'll get bigger.

I'M still going to grow, too.

**19th Night: Thorny Road (Part 9) END**

# Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

4

Tsun tsun ♪

Tsun tsun ♪

Mina, you're singing the song wrong...

There are a few "dere"s in there, too!

TMD TMD

Tsun tsun tsuuuun ♪

It's okay. Don't worry.

Huh?

We're barely going to make it because you over-slept.

There's a festival, too. How fun!

The Seven Pillars Stamp Rally, huh?

Sheesh.

Stamp Rally
Sakurashin Town

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Oh, that's right.

POINK

Here, hang this around your neck.

Uh, I...

Hey! Are you participating in the Stamp Rally, too?!

タッ タッ DASH タッ

Oh?!

Oh, yeah...

Here, put this around your neck!

Then you can join us! You should hurry before it ends!

...

Okay, let's go!

Wait, Mina!

# 20th Night: Thorny Road (End)

Oh, there it is.

The first pillar!!

Oh.

ぺ、たんこ

STAMP

Ao, stamp our cards!

You have to line up.

まりと

HELLO!

……

That's a weird group.

Why are you here today, Shinozuka-san?

I thought I would come say sorry to everyone for the trouble I caused. But Yae-san found me first thing this morning.

Oh, that's why you have a stamp card.

ぺったんこ STAMP

ぺったんこ STAMP

Well, I'll take my time going around.

There are seven pillars, so it's a lot of work.

That's true.

ぺったんこ STAMP

She told me everyone is out helping with the festival, so I felt I should take part, too.

I heard you weren't feeling well.

.....

Huh?

Oh, you know about that?

HOW EMBARRASSING.

I'd be down, too, if that's how my brother had wound up.

.....

Well... yeah...

But...

It's not like all hope is gone.

Your brother's spirit is still alive?

PHEW

Yes! Once I heard that, I knew I had to get better.

CREAK

STAMP ぺたん

Yae-san told me that demon powers are attached to the spirit and not the body.

The person who took over Nii-san's body was using the power of a satori, so...

Nii-san...

sst

...is much stronger than I am.

If I get stronger, Nii-san will become much stronger, too.

Then he can return to normal.

ぺたん STAMP

.....

Okay, done.

Mina-chan, Kana-chan, you two are the last ones.

Really?

See?

RING

ブブブ

RING

Huh? Oh, okay. Got it.

Such a loud voice...

Hello?

Waaah! Ao, help me!

WHOOSH

BEEP

Since I'm done here...

It looks like Kotoha-chan is really busy.

...I'll go help Kotoha-chan.

Shinozuka-san...

you should visit our office someday, too!

See you!

Let's go to the next one.

We have to hurry before it ends!

Stronger, huh?

The second stamp is...

Oh, it's Shidou.

Oh.

You're...

Oh, no, please don't.

I came to apologize for the other day...

STAMP

HA HA HA!

I squeezed your arm, so let's just call it even.

...

*SQUEEZED*

From what I saw...

...you're the strongest person in this town.

Why don't you come out more?

Hee hee.

You're giving me too much credit.

*STAMP

I'M not much help.

The ones who can protect the entire city are people like Hime-chan, Akina-kun, and everyone at the office.

So I would like strength to protect these two...

But, I am a guardian.

No, I have to go to the first pillar.

Should we go with you?

Okay, I'll go clean up.

.....

How harsh...

Although you're not that reliable!

BONK

Strength in this town...

Okay, let's go to the next one!

PO

BOW

Shinozuka-san, I'll see you again!

I have to collect the desks there.

ホニ
ホニ
FUZZY

はー
SIGH

FUZZY
ホ～ロロロロ

Kotoha-chan, you need to work, too.

Stop playing with my ears!

I'm so glad you came.

ペタ
STAMP

She's a half-demon, like me.

They get along so well.

.....

We were both lucky.

There aren't many cases where you can survive after a demon drops you and you fall...

Oh, so you're a half-demon, too?

I've never met another one.

LUCKY?

You're pretty simple-minded about it.

Akina's grandfather was there.

That was...

I like to believe that anything I can't do my choice is a matter of luck.

So I think falling was bad luck.

...good luck.

I thought the previous Mizuki saved you, too.

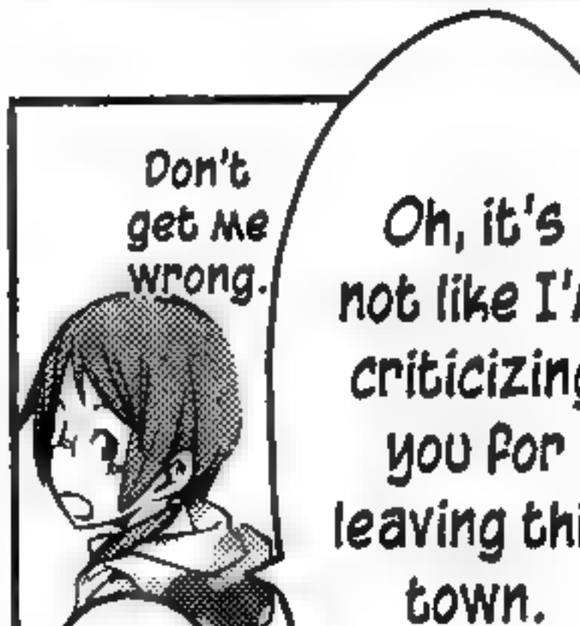
Yeah. That was lucky.

WWW
So I thought I should stay in this town and become the bridge between humans and demons.
It's perfect because I'M both.

I feel it's more constructive to think that falling and causing people trouble isn't my fault.
CLAP

ally?

The people of this town are strong, in and of themselves.
And that's not all they have...


Don't get me wrong.
Oh, it's not like I'M criticizing you for leaving this town.
I see.

I have to go. We're cleaning the office today.

I'll see you again!

Yeah.

Kotoha-chan!

We should get going.

Oops.

I want to talk to you again.

Since we're both half-demons.

No problem.

I'M underage!

Maybe we can go drinking.

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

♪ BOOM BOOM BOOM

Oh, we're here.

Yeah.

DDD

TMP TMP

Finally, the fourth... We're halfway done.

DDD

Oh, they're here.

Onii-chan, it's Shinozuka-san.

Yeah.

STAMP

I want to apolo-gize...

WHIP

Shidou-san called earlier.

Stamp our card! Stamp it!

I see.

I said we're even.

You don't have to apologize!!

STAMP

Good luck with the rest.

Yeah!

STAMP

Here, done.

Why?

To talk to Shinozuka-san about...

Oh, right.

?

Onii-chan, why don't you stay with Mina and Kana-chan?

I'm going back to the office.

CHAIR

See you, Onii-chan.

Yeah. Be careful.

I know.

Go straight to the office.

Watch out for cars.

I know.

I'm stronger than cars.

When a bear appears, make loud noises.

Sheesh! I'M okay!!

You're embarrassing me!

はらはら WORRIED

.....

SCRATCH ポリ ポリ
SCRATCH

Ah.

Akina-san!

Oh, Rin-chan.

Are you delivering food?

Yes! Why are you standing here? Let's go.

UM, SURE...

Oh, Rin-chan.

And Akina.

STAMP

ぺったぺった

Bye!

Yeah, thanks.

Just leave the bowls at the office.

See you!

I didn't get to eat lunch.

I'm starving.

Oh, thanks.

I brought you food!

Oh, okay.

Why don't you have one?

There are two.

Here.

CRACK

For what?

I didn't apologize.

What?

Um, Hime...

She so is...

I'm not mad anymore.

ODD TURN

For not telling you about the Seven Pillars blooming.

Oh.

So we're even.

But I kept quiet about being a demon.

Sorry...

Take it.

I'm so hungry.

Oh, I already ate lunch.

STARE

A demon...

That was good.

So, how is it going with them?

Yeah.

But all the townspeople know that you're a demon now.

HMM...

SLURP

Well...

I don't really know why.

But actually, nothing's changed.

Hime!

Mayor!

Whoa!

THUD

Hey!

I was worried about that.

...to break down the barriers between demons and humans.

...Maybe because someone worked so hard...

Hey, Akina.

She didn't get it?

Who could it be?

Kotoha?

Some-one...

PLOP

How do you feel now that you know I'm a demon?

...I...

Oh...

Does that change your feelings about me?

ぐい

FLINCH

Ah, there you are!

Oh.

ぎゅ ぎゅ

BUZZ BUZZ

What are you doing, Akina? There's no one at the fifth pillar!

.....

Shee sh!

I checked the roll call. I thought everyone was done. Sorry.

Oh, right.

Hime-sama.

Sorry about the...

Hello

Oh, Shinozuka-san.

...so, um...

...do you want to return to this town?

Um, we've talked about this with everyone...

CREAK

You're only half-demon, yet you still face a lot of risks.

We can minimize those threats in town.

.....

What do you think?

.....

Excellent!

↑ Ring tone

Oh, a text. It's Kotoha.

Yeah.

BEEP

I have to go.

I'm supposed to shop for the party later.

We're having nabe.

Oh, okay.

So think about it.

See you!

We don't need an answer immediately.

Okay, we'll help you shop!

We still have one more stamp to get.

How fun!

It doesn't matter!

Return to this town...?

Mina and Kana,

the seventh pillar doesn't know they're not coming.

Oh, that's right. Let's go then.

The person at the seventh pillar is...

# 7

Sheesh, those girls.

Well, it's not like it's important.

Stamp

I got a message from the higher-ups in the district.

Oh, Akina.

I'm going home.

I'm only helping this one time, though.

It's okay.

I'm sorry.

Council...?

But you're the highest.

The higher-ups are scary, aren't they?

They want you to come to the Town Council.

Our goals are too different.

They're willing to sacrifice this town and every demon here to stop the blooming.

And I'M trying to resolve this by having humans and demons live together.

There's no point in going.

I can't take sides...

But on the subject of goals...

Well, I don't disagree with you.

Could it be...?

.....?!

Did you ever wonder where it came from?

Yeah.

The one Enjin was using?

It's about the demon barrier.

...let me tell you some-thing.

That's right.

The demon barrier...

was created by the Town Council.

...!

I can't believe they did that!

Even on this issue, not everyone's on your side.

I'm sure they won't activate it immediately, though.

It's set up in all the villages connected to this town.

But, do you understand?

Your goal of humans and demons living together lies at the end of a long, harsh road...

...

Akina, can you walk that road through 'til the end?

A thorny road.

That's right.

...

Talk it over with Hime and the others.

ぺ STAMP
ぺ た STAMP
ぺ た STAMP
たん こ STAMP

It won't do anyone any good if you all just glare at each other.

Well, ask th Town Counc for detail

See you.

It involves the entire town, you know.

...

Dinner!

Shinozuka! It's time for dinner.

CREAK

CREAK

Town Patrol

About what we discussed earlier...

Hey.

...

CLOMP

I see.

She's been tagging along. Says it's training.

I'M hungry!

You're coming, too?!

They've been patrolling the town every day.

Huh? Morino and Kohime?

Your cell number...

Personal
090-xxxx-xxx

About the offer...

Oh.

TURN

Here's my card.

Your card?

But I got it before.

Besides, now I have a big job to take care of.

I still owe a debt.

Job?

Oh.

You're not moving back here?

...I'M thankful, but I'll pass.

Got it.

I'll make sure our town will help this town.

I know I don't owe you guys, but I do owe your grandfather.

SHINOZUKA!

Is he a lonely guy?!

Or go shop-ping...

Or you can call me to have tea or some-thing...

Thanks.

If anything comes up, call my phone. I'll try to help.

They weren't mad.

CREAK キコ CREAK キコ…

Yeah, but...

I have a hard time facing them.

Shouldn't you have said hello to them?

Mayor?

Oh, you're finally here!

CLICK

We're back.

UDON PARTY うどんパーティー (Instead of nabe)

I thought one person could easily eat six packs...

BUZZ わいわい

SLURP ずるずる

Sorry. ごめんね

100 udon packs

HEY! SHEESH!

Hime bought too much udon. We've been trying to finish it all!

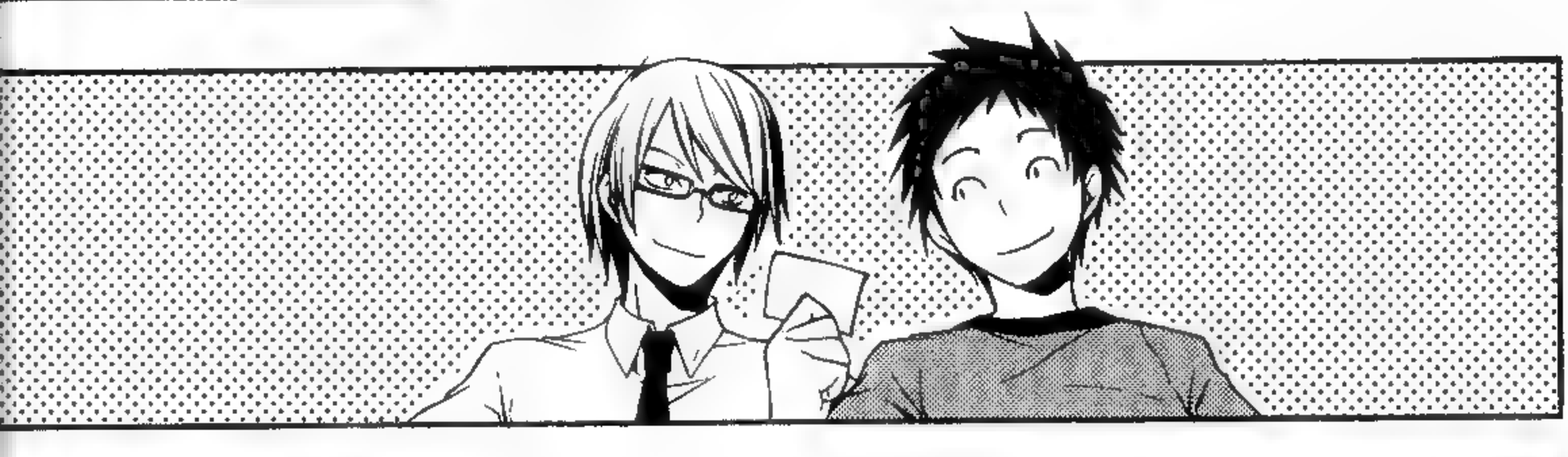
BUZZ わいわい

I don't think we can finish it all. Do you have anyone you'd like to invite?

Like a friend?

Friend?

RUSTLE



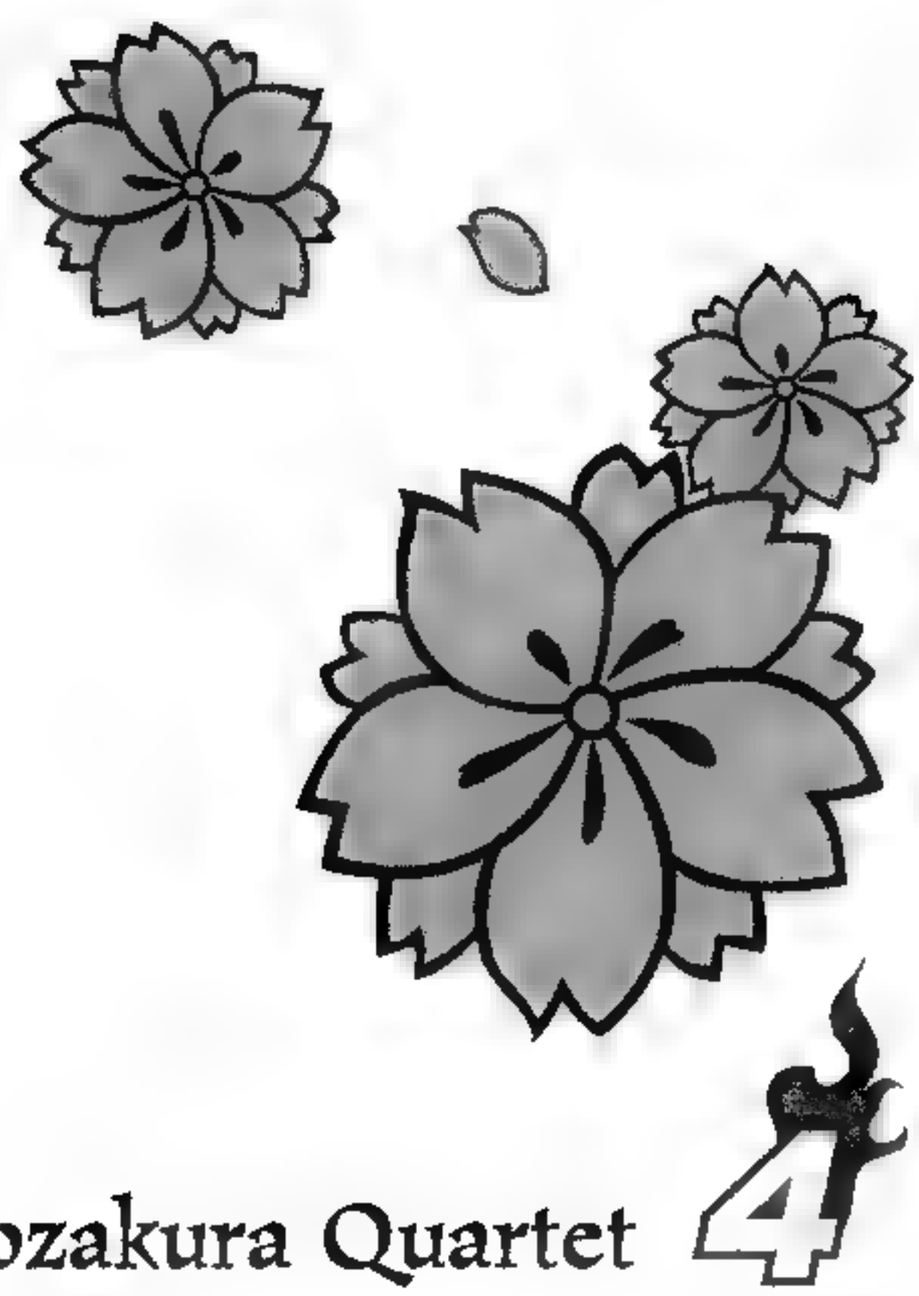
I know three people who can come.

Oh, good.

Who are they?

RING

RING



Yozakura Quartet 4

# Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

**Age:** 5

**Hobbies:** Drinking different kinds of Japanese sake

## Favorites

**Food:** Japanese sake

**Music:** Doesn't listen to any yet

**Comedian:** Yasu-Kiyo

**Uchi-P member:** Cameraman Tsuji

**Little-known fact:** She grows when she is immersed in water

**Age:** 5

**Hobbies:** Walking around town with Mina

## Favorites

**Food:** Tomatoes

**Music:** Doesn't listen to any yet

**Comedian:** Doesn't know

**Uchi-P member:** Toku-chan

**Little-known fact:** She grows when she is immersed in water

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
CLICK
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
Kotoha slept over after the party!
SNORE
Yawn...
ZZZ
PHEW.

BEEP

Can't wake up early

Zzz...

WASH とぎ

WASH とぎ

More sleep...

Zzz

MUFFLE もぞ

MUFFLE もぞ

CLICK

CLICK

GRIP

Yawn...

BEEP

BEEP

BEEP

カチ

CLICK

Umm. Let me sleep one more day...

Kotoha-chan, you're going to be late for school.

Can't wake up

But then it'll be Tuesday.

GRIN

OPEN

Freshly Made rice...

SLIDE

Mmm, nice weather!

# 21st Night: Hanamizuki (Part 1)

Kotoha-chan, breakfast is ready.

Coming.

SPLASH SPLASH

Wears fake glasses.

Puts in contacts.

You're using your powers left and right, aren't you?

PLING

Short-cut... school uniform!

You didn't bring any...

Oh, what about your clothes?

No problem.

Why doesn't she just wear real glasses?

Let's eat.

I'm ready.

Bon appetite!

MUNCH
もぐもぐ
MUNCH

Yeah.

So I'll see you later at the office.

Do you have work today?

Oh!

You need to eat other things, too!

You can't just eat rice!!

MUNCH
もぐもぐ…
MUNCH

OPEN

Okay, I'm going.

Have fun!

I'll see you later.

Okay.

Well, then...

カチッ CLICK

Oh.

Phew.

Oh.

Morning.

Morning.

Morning.

Good Morning!

Can't wake up

Can't wake up

Oh.

Okay.

See you.

Onii-chan, have fun at work.

Be careful.

Hime-sama, I'll see you after school.

LIFT

Hazama Life Counseling Office

Good morning.

Good morning.

I can still smell the nabe from last night.

"Can't wake up"

Good morning.

Okay.

SLIDE

It's a nice day today.

Let's open the window.

HM?

Hey, Kyosuke.

I can't work there.

Kyo-chan, would you like some tea?

I guess that's true.

The community center has been taken over by the elderly.

Although I don't mind you being here.

Why don't you make space for your office at the community center?

Do your work!

What is it?

GRIN ニヤリ

Ooh.

Oh.

This way I can contact Hime easily.

Well, it's okay.

Oh!

I made lunch today.

Hope you like it!

Eat up!

Bon appetite!

...

Oh, it's lunchtime already?

Then let's order some-thing...

Okay.

We should eat lunch.

モグ MUNCH

It's good... It's good, but...

Oh, hee hee.

I'll eat most of it...

How many cups did you make?

...there's so much rice!

It's good.

I wish Touka's food was this good.

Yeah, it's good.

Yes.

Touka-chan's food is good in its own way.

Lunch break

CLICK

CLICK

SNORE

DASH!

RING RING

Yeah.

She wanted the latest list of residents.

CLICK

Was that Juri-san?

GLANCE

GLANCE

Sure.

Okay.

Sure, I'll have it by tomorrow.

Okay. Later!

Hello?

Oh, hi.

Then...

Let's get to work on it.

Okay.

CLICK

If there were one more demon doctor, Juri-san could work less...

SAVING...

Don't touch me!

It's hot!

Oh, thanks.

That helps.

MASSAGE

MASSAGE

I don't have any rush jobs right now.

POINK

Mm.

I'll help.

Hizumi Life Coun-seling Office

Okay, done.

Me, too.

Me, too.

We finished pretty fast.

Okay...

YOINK

Say hi to Touka-chan.

How'd you know...?

I mean, I'M not going to pick her up or anything!

GRIN

にやにや

GRIN

I'll go give this to Juri-san.

I need to go that way anyway.

Oh, thanks!

Well...

See you!

...I might... bump into her, maybe.

Okay.

What shall we do next?

Okay.

So you can do what you want, now.

That's it for today.

Okay.

Writing Test 3

Give complete answers!

Ding dong

Hello, food's here.

Huh?

We didn't order anything.

Even though it's snack time...

That means...

?

But if I eat there, I'd wind up getting endless refills. Seconds and thirds...

An odd reason...

BEEP RING RING

I ordered!!

Eat at the restau-rant!

Hime is here!

I knew it!

TA-DAH

Yes!

I under-stand.

...Yes.

Yes.

?

Hiizumi Life Coun-seling...

Yes, hello?

I'M still eating...

Whaaat?

What?

NOOOOOO!

The Town Council.

DRAG

ず" ず"

DRAG

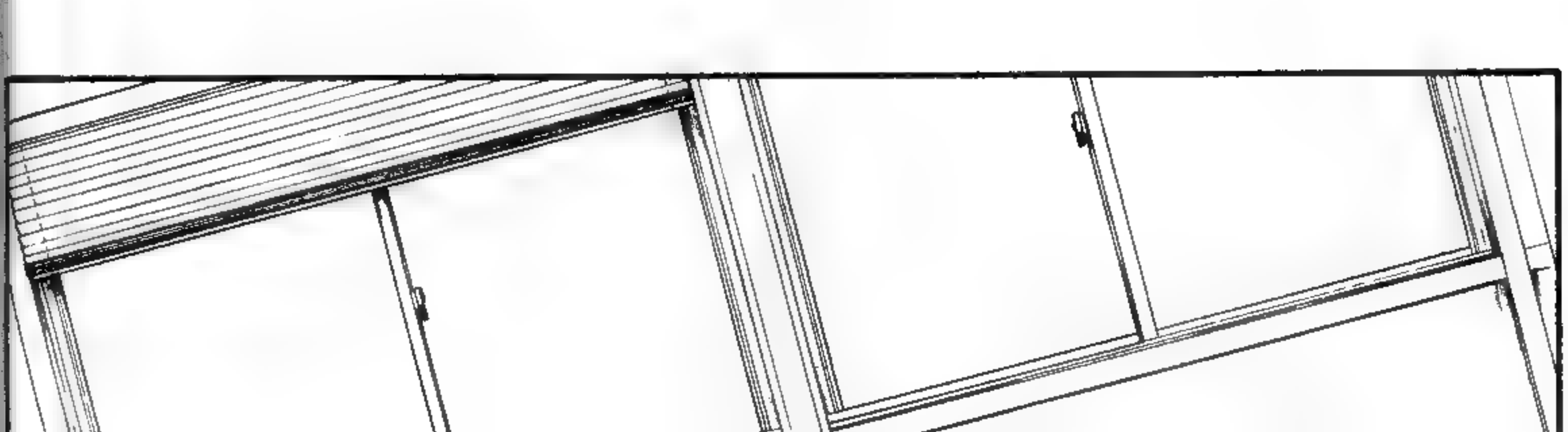
We're going.

GRAB

What's up?

CLICK

カ"チ"ャ"ッ…



They left.

ALONE

She took the food →

Houran

The director is out right now...

CLICK

Coming!

It's so busy today.

TROT TROT

I guess I should study, then.

Hey.

Can you let Me in?

I just came to talk.

ピク

If you're good, I won't do anything.

ピク PUSH

.....

THUD

ダッ DASH

Urgh!

Mm, it's good.

CHIRP

CHIRP

...

!

I interfered with the entire town.

Did the exact opposite of Satellite.

No one will.

If only someone would come home...

GLANCE

...or even see this office.

Right now, the townspeopl won't think about...

...

It guarantees privacy.

A satori's power is handy.

Cheese-cake was... Nii-san's favorite...

Then this one.

The other is for me.

You can only have one!

Oh, those cakes look good.

Oh.

CHIRP

CHIRP

But sheesh.

It's so quiet here, even though the world might collapse.

The people of this town... and this office...

.....

.....

Do they think everything will be fine just because they believe so?

That's...

THUNK

Humph. You don't talk much.

THUNK

KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK

I guess some of his spirit is still left.

...

Really?

Huh?

...cut his cakes.

...the way Nii-san...

KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK
GRIN

I thought I'd gotten rid of him completely.

...

<" CLENCH

ヶ SST

If that's the case...

...I should...

...Make sure he's gone...

GRIP

What's wrong?

Stab me.

Er...

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

If you can't do it...

...Maybe I'll take *your* body.

Ugh...

You're a satori, too.

TWITCH

Come on.

Stab me.

Come on!

……

THUD

OW.

I didn't come to pick on you.

If Hiizumi's not here, then this was a waste of time.

Just kidding.

THUMP

.....

See you.

I'll come again.

ぽたっ DRIP

Urgh...

ぐすっ SNIFF

ぐすっ SNIFF

I should clean up...

He knows I can't do it.

He's so mean...

はらり DRIP

はらり DRIP

OFFICE

Oh.

Now then.

You knew?

But... if you keep making them cry...

WOOSH

I'M not going to bother with someone who won't get in the way.

I'M not. You can only watch over them, right?

I see.

So you knew I would come, and you didn't do anything?

You're not taking me seriously.

I didn't expect to be able to interfere with a town a land god protects.

SWING

My claws...

Will reach my target, no matter how far.

...then that's differ-ent.

CHINK

How scary.

Okay, time to work!

UH-OH!

HELLO!

...Huh?

ooo

What's wrong? You look down.

.....

Uh...

Nothing.

It's nothing...

?

Huh?

What?!

HUG

If you eat something good, you'll feel better!

Huh?

Okay! I don't get it, but let's go eat something!

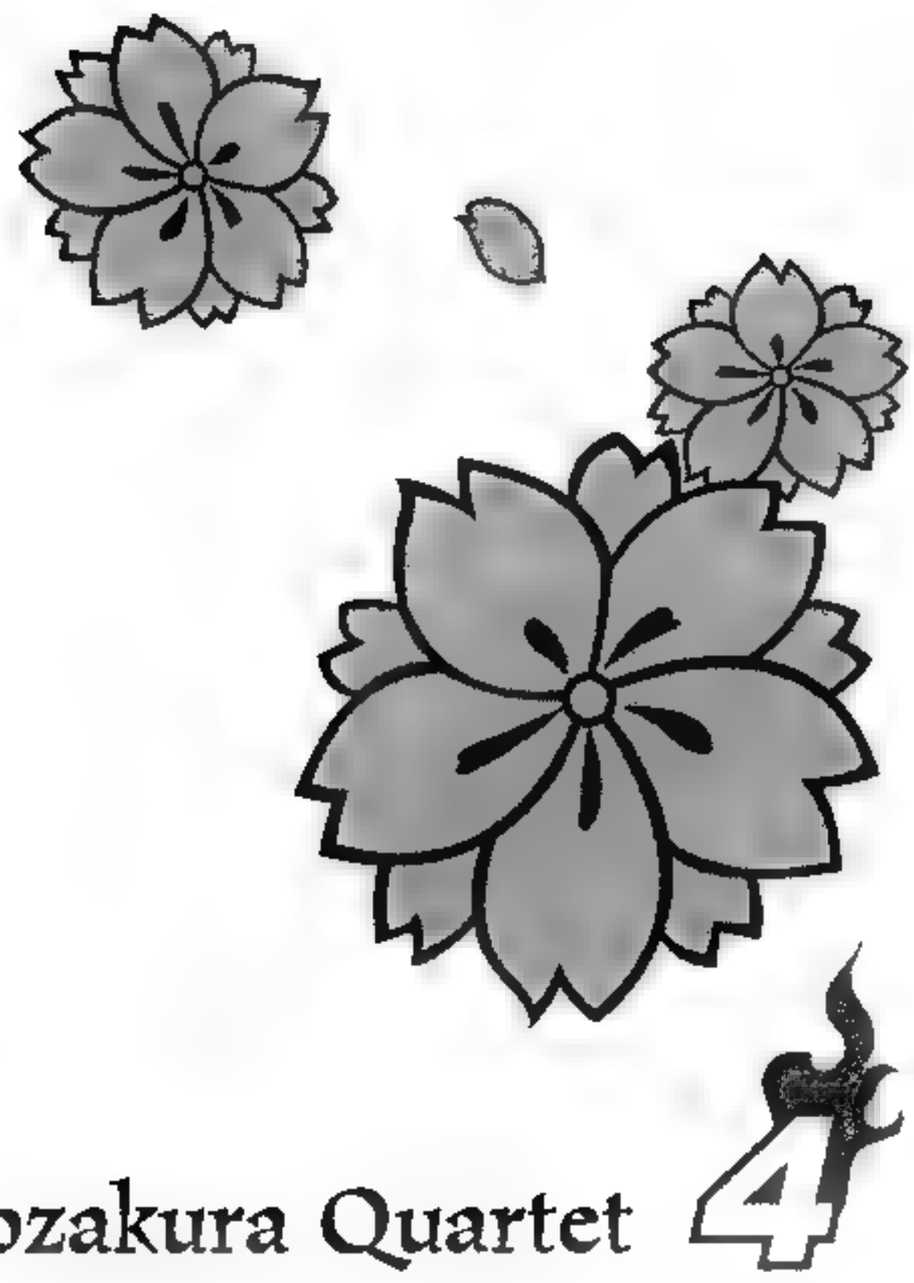
That's two days in a row...

And after that, I'll sleep over again!!

I can just use kotodama.

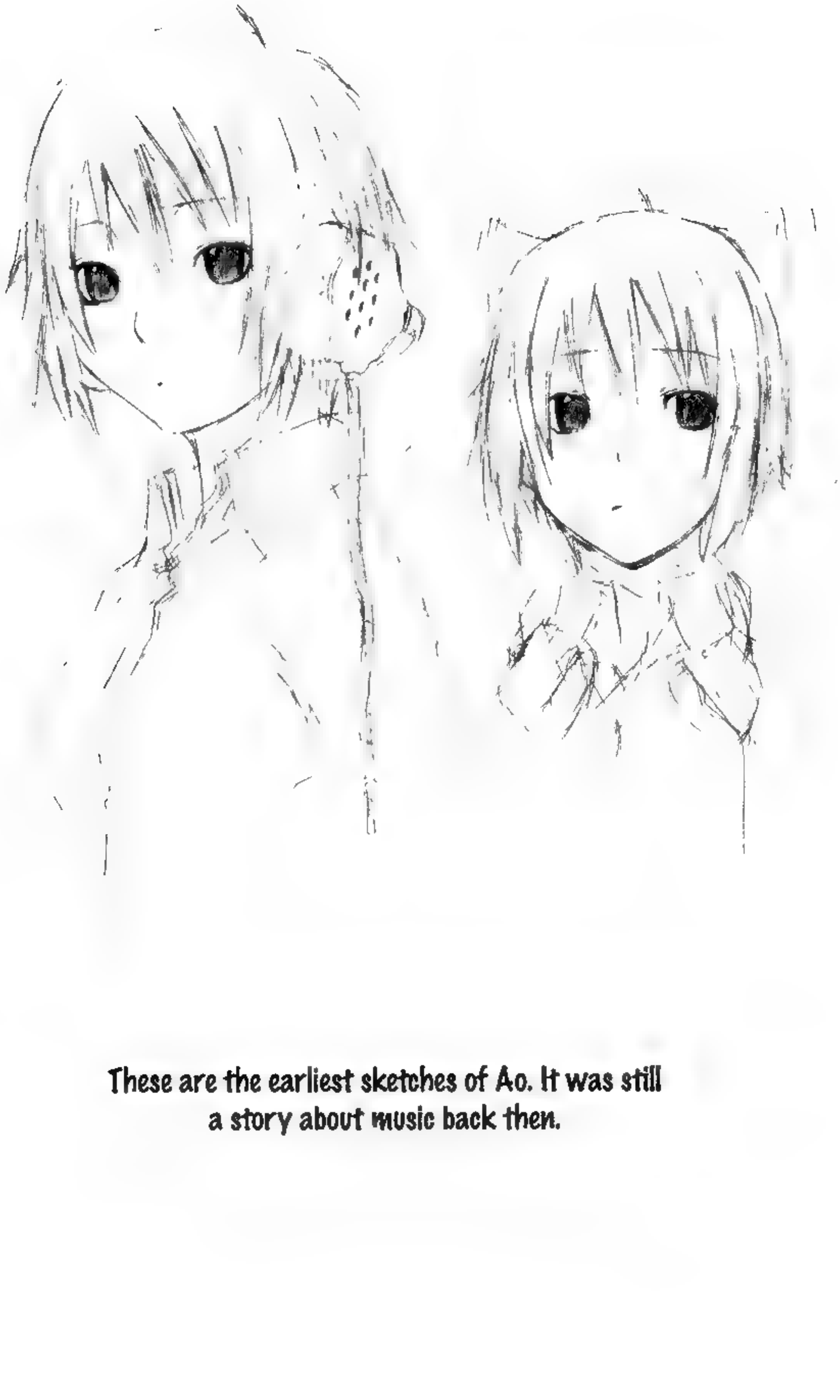
At least go get your clothes.

21st Night: Hanamizuki (Part 1) END



Yozakura Quartet 4

# Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet



These are the earliest sketches of Ao. It was still a story about music back then.

Actually...

I'm jealous.

Their straight-forwardness and their youth...

These are things we don't have anymore.

...

Being young and being naïve are different things.

Well, that's true, but...

Shall we go?

SST

They're here.

KNOCK

KNOCK

An impossible ideal is no longer an ideal.

It's just a delusion.

Yes.

Shidare.

So it's our duty to make him understand.

CLOMP

CLOMP

He still doesn't understand that.

.....

SST

No one else can do it.

WOOSH

Let us begin.

Council...

is now in session.

# 22nd Night: Hanamizuki (Part 2)

Hime.

Yes?

?

Just a warning...

←Bowl

...

ZWISH

Don't lose your temper!

Already upset →

He thinks I'M short-tempered or something...

...I haven't been to the Town Council since I became Mayor.

GLANCE

But...

HM.

No problem.

Let's skip the formalities.

Thank you for coming.

First things first...

SLAM

I'll get to the point.

The demon barrier.

I want an explanation!

.....

7...SST

First of all...

WHIP

...I need to make something clear.

Mmf Fgh.

CLOMP

That's not an answer.

Why did you create such a thing?

Don't lose it.

Our biggest concern...

KONK

...is the blooming of the Seven Pillars. We need to stop the two worlds from integrating.

Do you have any objections to that?

No.

This world is not for demons.

Ugh

GRR!

It exists for us humans.

You must tune the Seven Pillars...

and make them disappear.

That is it.

There is only one way to stop the blooming.

If I could do that, we wouldn't be having this conversa-tion.

Tuning has consequences. The one doing the tuning could be cast out of this dimension.

With my level of power, tuning one pillar would cause my whole body to go to the other side.

That's why I prepared the demon barrier.

There's no way I can tune all seven.

You understand, right?

What?!

You can use the demon powers of those living in your town.

So you don't have to sacrifice yourself.

I can't sacrifice the demons.

Don't lose it.

MMFF

Of course I'M not going to allow that!

There's another way.

If demons ceased to exist in this world, I assume the integration would be stopped.

Don't leave even one.

Tune the demons...

All of them.

You assume?

But I do...

Demons are foreign to this world.

You have no grounds for that assumption.

KONK

I believe...

that the presence of the demons in this world...

...is poisonous!

CLENCH

.....

I don't give a damn about being the oyakume!

...am not going to tune reck-lessly...

when I don't know what the Afterworld is like.

I...

.....

...?

He refused to take advantage of them...

His ancestors prepared the demon sacrifices known as "the Seven Pillars."

He hardly tuned, either.

HIIZUMI LIFE COUNSELING OFFICE

Your grand-father, Makiharu, was like that, too.

Of course.

...was forced to be sacrificed?

You guys knew that Enyou...

Wait a second.

Then why didn't you tell me?

.....

PHOO

.....

GRR!

Why don't you...

...practice by tuning that girl right there...?

Because your tuning would've been affected.

That's why.

...!

This would be a good opportu-nity.

CRUSH

SHUT UP!

Don't...

I'll CRACKLE

"Poisonous"?!

You tell me which side is poisonous?!

CRACKLE

CRACKLE

I'm trying to work with you here, and that's what you're saying!

CRACKLE

It doesn't matter if you're human.

CRACKLE

I'll send you guys off first!

CRACKLE

CRACKLE

CRACKLE

CRACKLE

CRACKLE

CRACKLE

GRAB

CRACKLE

Akina!

No!!

CRACKLE

AKINA!

Stop !!

You told me not to lose it, but you're losing *your* temper!

CRACKLE

.....

SST

Hold it.

We're leaving.

But...

What it's like on the other side.

You said earlier that you don't know...

...

...let's say that living in this town is 80 percent good...

Maybe living in the Afterworld is 100 percent good for the demons?

Did you ever think of that possibility?

TUG

If that's the case, I know what to do.

If the Afterworld is 100 percent good...

...I'll make this town 120 percent better.

That's how I deal with things!

...Humph.

Can you believe him?

...when he used to run the office.

He really is the same.

.....

Just like Makiharu-san...

...Who are foreign to this world.

It's not just the demons...

The oyakuMe is just as foreign.

Maybe More so.

TMD

TMD

Uh...

TMP

TMP

.....

TMP

TMP

Tsun tsun dere tsun ♪

SEE?

Oh, and look! I made up dance moves to the town song!

SHINY!

Don't you think I've gotten better at washing my scarf?

Hey look

.....

.....

MM...

YANK

Oh, Akina...

You're hurt...

めんどい REGRET

TMD TMD

しょん SAD

Oh...

Okay!

I'm hungry.

Let's go eat something.

...despite what I said, if someone asked for a different idea, I don't have one yet.

Oh. Hmm...

But the thing is...

Enjin, huh?

TMP

...Yeah.

If we make him talk, maybe we can figure out something!

How about Enjin?

I know.

Do you feel bad about Enyou's family because they were sacrificed by force?

Hey, Akina.

Well, if I thought of it as just something my ancestors did, not related to me, it would be easier.

But I can't think that way.

.....

I'll be like your grandfather!

Please don't.

I'll find a way!

If we all think together, we'll figure it out!

Don't worry! We'll find a way!

SLAM

You think?

Yeah!

Let's find something good to eat.

Oh well.

I've been eating ramen a lot lately, so I miss soba...

SLIDE

I want soba!

If we eat something good, we'll feel better!

That's a good idea!

Sure thing.

Oh.

Oh.

Oh.

Oh.

I
see.

I'll do it!

Sure.

.....

That's why I called you guys.

.....

The demons are strong, you know.

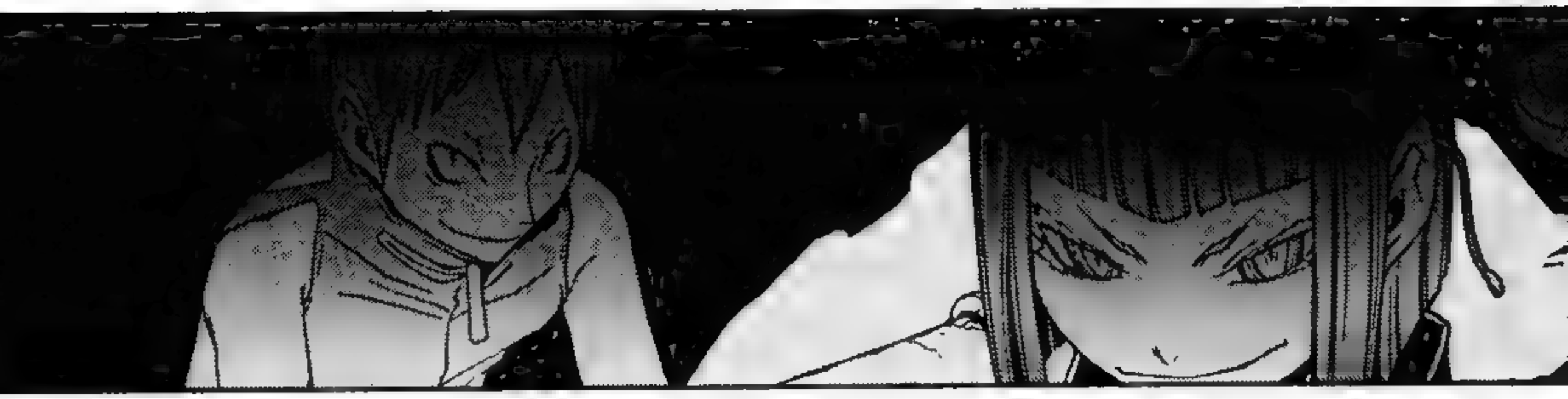
But, don't you need demon powers in addition to a Hiizumi's body to make the Seven Pillars bloom?

That's why you're demon hunters.

In a sense...

each of you is one demon's nemesis.

All of you here are powerful up against specific demons.



...if the worlds were to integrate, then this world would be filled with demons.

SWISH

Well...

SST

This world would become one big hunting ground...

We'd like that, so we're in.

...can we hunt you, too?

...When everything is over...

FOOSH

But...

SHINK

.....

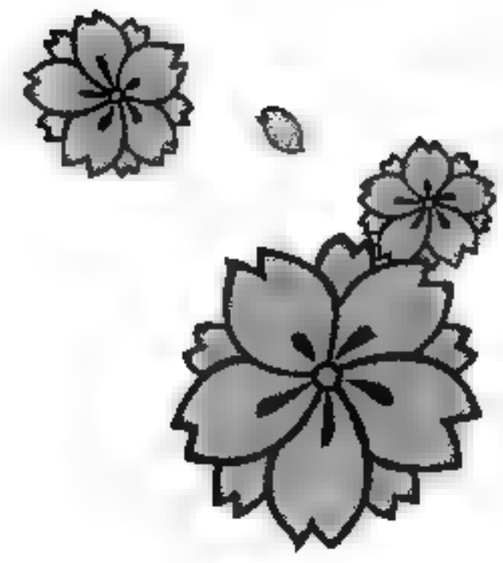
That's good.

Because... Because none of us... like you at all.

If you can manage it.

Oh, how nice.

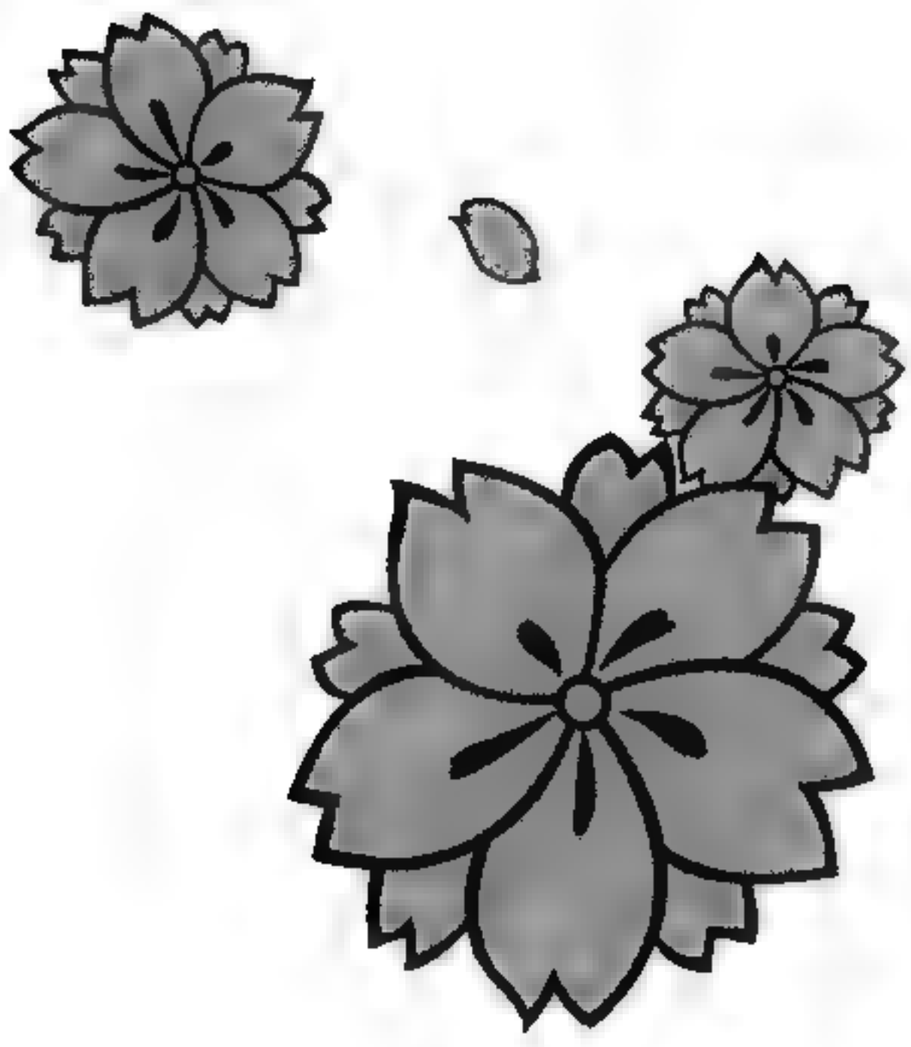
...I hate all of you, too.



**22nd Night: Hanamizuki (Part 2) END**

To be Continued .....





*Monthly Shonen Sirius* May 2007 issue cover

*Monthly Shonen Sirius* November 2007 issue cover

# Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

This isn't Hime!
She's saying something that makes sense.
I do so take care of my health!!
Whoa!
Eating only soba is not good for you...
SOBA

YOZAQ!

よざかん!

Y·O·Z·A·K

I'M back.

ガラガラ SLIDE

Whoaz?!

じぃ SNIFF
じぃ SNIFF
す

What are you doing?

いたばた KICK KICK

Urgh... Akina-kun...

じたばた KICK KICK

What z?!

A robber came in.

Oh no! We need to call the police!

No don't!

Untie me.

I need you to keep quiet for one...no, maybe two or three more hours.

Maybe at least half a day!

You're going to take that long?!

FIDGET FIDGET FIDGET

もた もた もた

I'm going to need a little bit longer!

Phantom Thief Mariabell

What?

You're still here?!

Whoa!

I won't go down easily!

Take that! I'll tie you up!

WOOSH

ヒュ

GRAB

ガシ

I'll catch you myself...

...

ぱっ RELEASE

Oh, sorry.

ぼっ BLUSH

?

Hm, I guess there's another criminal here, too.

She started saying some-thing weird.

What's up with her?!

どきどき TH-THUMP TH-THUMP

To steal a heart from a phantom thief...

ブー BOO BOO

There's favoritism there!!

Rejected.

How's this?

かきかき WRITE WRITE

# Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

I thought of it now!
This isn't Kotoha!
she's scared of mice
Earth Crushing Bomb!!
I do short-cuts!
And her birthday is September 3rd.

# Bonus Manga

Thank you!

This is the bonus manga, which follows the weird manga.

Hello. Thank you for buying *Yozakura Quartet* volume 4!

OH.

But I can't say anything yet, so please check volume 5 for more information...

YAY!

So... I think everyone knows this, but *Yozakura Quartet* is going to become an anime!

9/30: the day of the signing

CLICK

HOUSE

I'm sure there were many folks who couldn't come, so I think I'll do a mini-report on it.

OOH.

(SHIN-WA DINING)

...I did a signing when volume 3 came out.

You did.

SASHIMI IS GOOD.

Any-way...

SPRING

SPLASH

It was like someone was pouring buckets of water on us.

It was a day with record-breaking thunder-storms.

This is the area.

OH.

TORA

They have signings almost every week, so the staff is used to it and everyone was very efficient.

We had the signing at the Akihabara Tora no Ana.

CLOMP

CLOMP

Shall we check the signing area?

Oh, okay.

TORA

(Sob) I don't think anyone's coming in this weather.

Waiting Room

Don't worry!

EDITOR

And after getting excited for a while...

And...

What?! Flowers?!

Tables

It's like a wedding or some-thing!

It's huge!!

Whoa!

And clean!

EDITOR

I never get to do these things, so I had a lot of fun.

The signing was for an autograph, plus one character (requested by all customer).

Thank you so much...

TEAR

Even though it was crazy weather, 111 out of the 120 people who got tickets showed up.

EDITOR

Nervous

Hello, everyone...

EDITOR

...it started without any problems.

110 CLAP

115 CLAP

Incident ②

The most popular, in order, were: Hime, Ao, Kotoha, and Yae.

Yae-san was very popular.

That's a lot.

Can you draw Yae-san?

We got this question about five times.

Are you the writer?

Readers thought we were a pair.

Incident ①

Uh, no...

EDITOR

Trying not to laugh.

I think it's more work than what I usually do in a day.

But drawing over 100 autographs was pretty tiring.

Because you never get to talk to readers directly.

So it was like that. It was fun.

Afterward, everyone was introducing themselves and it was funny.

Oh, I buy your comics.

Hello, I'M...

Incident ③

Many friends came to ~~tease~~ visit me.

Not all at once though.

SHUFFLE

SHUFFLE

We won't announce it in this issue.

Huh?

EDITOR

What should we do about announcing the signing?

When we were discussing the 8/26 *Sirius* issue...

Oh.

EDITOR

**The time line was...**

**8/26 *Sirius* October issue**

**9/21 *Yozakura* 3**

**9/26 *Sirius* November issue**

**9/30 Signing**

True.

...like this.

Oh, there's one thing...

I need to apologize about...

?

Oh?

I heard they ran out of tickets for the singing this morning.

Ooh.

EDITOR

9·21

VOLUME 3'S RELEASE DATE

RING RING

So we announced it on 9/15 on my blog.

There's over a month until the signing. Everyone will forget, so we can announce it right beforehand on 9/26.

EDITOR

I guess so.

?

I didn't think so many people would want to come.

But I guess they did.

That's not good!

I'M really sorry.

EDITOR

And the people who find out about it in the next *Sirius* issue can't get any either?

THAT MEANS...

The people who don't find out about this 'til the afternoon can't get any?

Oh...

But we're going to do another signing then.

Volume 4 came out in April instead of February because of the announcement of the anime.

I'M sorry about that, too.

To match the anime, volume 5 came out in August, and volume 6 will come out in December.

Oh!

Speaking of next time...

Don't mind it.

We just have to be careful next time.

EDITOR

You're pushing *Sirius* so much...

Anime information will be featured first in *Sirius*, too.

Of course!

EDITOR

Thank you for designing them, S-san.

There will probably be an exchangeable book cover as an extra in the magazine, too.

Sirius

We will advertise it well, so please check the magazine.

Please check it out.

*Monthly Shonen Sirius* (Kodansha)

EDITOR

Please!

Please read the next volume, too!!

...sorry this afterword seemed rushed. I really had no time.

So anyway...

There was a suggestion to have one at Fukuoka.

How nice.

Oh.

Oh, for the volume 3 signing...

Italian restaurant "La Pianta"

Stories...

Do you have any stories to tell?

Pizza is so good.

Darn.

Yeah, I know there's more...

Punk'd

EDITOR

I feel like I'M dying on flights.

I don't remember anything.

When I have to ride one, I force myself.

Oh, you're afraid of heights.

I wouldn't be able to handle it.

...I really hate airplanes!

That's because...

Why didn't it happen?

SHINE

I thought it would be fun drinking on the train for six hours.

Likes to drink →

EDITOR

I don't mind going to Fukuoka by bullet train.

Huh?

And when the issue came up of having a signing somewhere far away...

"It'll take too long."

"I don't want to."

I suggested using the bullet train to my editor...

That's what he said.

EDITOR

Are you done?

BUZZ

BUZZ

Oh. You girls were quiet.

Please check the Magazine.

Sirius

So I might be going around the country to sign autographs.

...seems like fun!

SHINE

That...

Likes to drink

My ideal way of enjoying this book is leaving it by my pillow and reading it over from time to time.

The story is going to continue for a long time, so if you can enjoy it slowly, that would be great.

I like doing short, episodic chapters.

Of course, it won't have only battles. It'll show *Yozakura*-ish daily life, too.

Next is the Demon Hunter arc.

Anyway, this volume stopped with the end of an arc.

Please read volume 5, too! I'll see you again!

To my assistants, Amagi-san, Anri-san, Oishi-san, Kato-san, Takahashi-san; my editor, Kimura-san, etc., etc...and all the readers who cheer me on! Thank you very much!

My friend said that *Yozakura* fans are all nice people.

(What did he mean?)

That's it for this volume.

It may be hard, but I do try to make it "understandable." So please bear with me.

See you.

The cover for volume 5 is of her.

# About the Author

Suzuhito Yasuda's cute and colorful character designs, sharp linework, and unique talents have made him a popular artist in the fields of both manga and novel illustration. He has illustrated such Japanese novels as *Kamisama Kazoku*, *Scarlet Sword*, and *Maid Machinegun*. He has also worked on the manga series *Pinky:Comic* and *Ebony & Ivory*; *Yozakura Quartet* is his latest work.

His Preferred Tools:
PowerMAC G4 933Mhz
Apple studio display 17 TFT

PowerMAC G4 Cube
Apple Studio Display 17 CRT

Sony VAIO Notebook PCG542B

# Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more an art than a science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

### *Sakura*

*Sakura* is the Japanese term for cherry blossoms. *Yozakura* in the title refers to *sakura* at night, or viewing *sakura* at night.

### *Jiang Shi*, page 4

A *Jiang Shi* is a Chinese demon. These zombies hop around and prey on living creatures to absorb their *chi* (living energy).

### Hanamizuki, page 6

*Hanamizuki* is the Japanese name for *Cornus florida*, also known as flowering dogwood. It was sent as a thank-you gift to Japan in the early 1900s from the United States after Japan sent cherry blossoms to Washington D.C..

### *Tsundere*, page 85

Mina is singing the town song, "Tsundere," which Hime taught to the kids in volume 1. *Tsundere* is a term for a specific character trait, describing a person who is standoffish or aloof who can become loveable and adorable in different situations. This term first started in Japanese dating simulation games, then moved on to anime and manga, but is now widely used in mass media.

## Stamp Rally, page 85

A stamp rally is a common activity in Japan where you get a card with spaces to stamp and you go around to various points to get those stamps. If you get all the stamps, you can get a prize.

## *Nabe*, page 110

This dish includes vegetables such as *nappa* cabbage, mushrooms, green onions, tofu, and meat. The actual word *nabe* means "pot."

## *Udon*, page 119

*Udon* is a white, thick noodle. People like to eat it after a *nabe* using the leftover soup.

UDON PARTY
うどんパーティー
(Instead of nabe)
I thought one person could easily eat six packs...
Hime bought too much udon. We've been trying to finish it all!
100 udon packs

### Uchi-P, page 122

Uchi-P is an abbreviated term for *Uchimura Produce*, a TV show featuring comedians doing comedy sketches.

### Toku-chan, page 122

Toku-chan is short for Yumi Tokunaga, an assistant to the show. She wasn't that good as an assistant and the comedians often picked on her for it. She eventually married Teruyoshi Uchimura, the host and executive producer of *Uchimura Produce*.

### Yasu-Kiyo, page 122

Yasu-Kiyo refers to Yasushi Yokoyama and Kiyoshi Nishikawa, a comedic duo who were top entertainers in the 1970s and '80s.

### Cameraman Tsuji, page 122

Cameraman Tsuji is a TV cameraman who works on Uchi-P. His full name is Minoru Tsuji.

### *Soba*, page 184

*Soba* is the Japanese term for buckwheat noodles. They are gray in color and are one of the healthier noodles available in Japan. They can be served hot or cold, although in manga they are often depicted as cold.